

their signature bill is now a huge tax cut for rich people.

The same Democrats who say they support science and medicine want to slap arbitrary price controls on Americans' prescription drugs, reducing future innovation and, according to experts, literally costing Americans their lives who would have lived if not for this policy.

The same Democrats who pretend they care about Social Security and Medicare want to stretch seniors' existing Medicare Program even thinner. Even though the trust fund is already just a few years away from running dry, they would do this in order to fund new giveaways.

The same Democrats who talk a big game about competing with China want to raise taxes so high that our own American industries would face a higher tax rate than businesses have to pay in communist China.

The same Democrats who are still trying to sneak forms of amnesty into this bill also want to make illegal immigrants eligible for new welfare.

The same Democrats who pretend they are forward-thinking on energy issues want to hammer the U.S. economy with painful regulations while bigger emitters, like China, just keep on emitting—maximum pain for American families and no measurable gain for emissions or the climate.

The bill our colleagues are writing behind closed doors is terrible from top to bottom—more debt, more taxes, more inflation, and fewer options for American families.

This reckless taxing-and-spending spree would hurt families and help China. This radical social takeover is the last thing Americans need and the last thing Americans want. The voters of America just yesterday gave our colleagues a preview of that fact last night. It is not too late. They could still pull back from the brink while they can.

VOTING LAWS

Mr. President, now on one final matter, practically every single week, Senate Democrats make another attempt at grabbing new power over America's elections.

Remember, a giant partisan power grab over voting procedures in every county and State was Democrats' ceremonial first priority of this whole Congress. They revealed their mission from the very start. That first proposal would have sent Federal funds to political campaigns; overridden common-sense State rules, like voter ID; and even changed the Federal Election Commission itself from a neutral referee into a partisan body.

It was so bad—so bad—that even the New York Times called it a flawed bill that was “designed to fail.” That is, of course, exactly what happened here in the Senate, but the Democrats tipped their hand right from the start. They gave away the entire game.

So every time that Washington Democrats make a few changes around

the margins and come back for more bites at the same apple, we know exactly what they are trying to do.

Many of the go-nowhere bills that the Democratic leader has used for political theater had Congress essentially appointing itself—itsself—the Board of Elections on steroids for every county and State in America. Congress was going to micromanage elections to a degree with no precedent.

This new version, today's episode in this ongoing series, is only slightly different. Rather than congressional Democrats trying to grab all the power for themselves, they are instead trying to pull off the power grab on behalf of the Democratic Attorney General. Instead of Washington Democrats and the legislative branch seizing power over elections in the country, it will be Washington Democrats and the executive branch doing the same thing—a slightly different twist on the same concept, but for the same partisan reasons, with the same basic problems.

In order to let Attorney General Garland dictate voting procedures, Democrats want to overturn Supreme Court precedent. Our colleagues' flimsy arguments keep losing in court, so they are now trying to overturn the courts. When States cracked down on the absurd practice of ballot harvesting, Democrats ran to the courts, claiming discrimination, and lost.

When liberals wanted to kill voter ID laws—which are popular with majorities of Black Americans and Hispanic Americans, by the way—they ran to the courts.

What happened?

They lost.

When the Supreme Court ruled in 2013 that one part—just one part—of the 40-year-old Voting Rights Act needed updating, the radical left said the sky was falling and voter turnout would collapse.

Well, of course, the opposite happened. Turnout in 2020 was the highest since 1900. In one recent poll—listen to this—94 percent of voters say voting is easy. Ninety-four percent of voters say voting is easy, and, of course, it is.

Moreover, the Voting Rights Act is still in effect. The courts haven't struck down that law. It is simply false to suggest otherwise. The Supreme Court simply ruled that there was no evidence—no evidence—supporting the continuation of 40-year-old practices that were designed in the mid-1960s to address the specific challenges back then.

There is nothing—nothing—to suggest a sprawling Federal takeover is necessary. Nationalizing our elections is just a multidecade Democratic Party goal in constant search of a justification. Their rationales change constantly, but the end goal never does.

Americans don't need Attorney General Garland ruling over their States' and their counties' elections any more than they need congressional Democrats doing it themselves. So the Senate will reject this go-nowhere bill

today, like we have rejected every other piece of fruit from the same poisonous tree.

This body has real business we should be tackling. The Defense authorization bill is months behind schedule. The majority has been derelict in allowing bipartisan progress on appropriations. These are things we need to be doing.

Every designed-to-fail political showboat comes at the expense of the things that we ought to be working on.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJAN). The Republican whip.

REMEMBERING JEAN ROUNDS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, let me begin this morning by saying how sorry we are to hear the news about the loss of the former First Lady Jean Rounds of the State of South Dakota.

MIKE and Jean have been friends of ours for many, many years. I was involved in Senator ROUNDS' first campaign for office when he ran for State Senate back in 1990. I have known Jean since I worked in the administration of late Governor George Mickelson along with her at the Department of Transportation, and I just can't tell you what a loss it is for the State of South Dakota.

She was an individual who carried herself with incredible grace, always kind, had a humility about her that I think people just found infectious. She was very down-to-earth. She never lost that. As a First Lady, she conducted herself in a way that represented a great model for the State of South Dakota, both in her character and her conduct. The style, the way in which she has served as First Lady, is something that I think made every South Dakotan proud.

So, today, along with all South Dakotans, Kimberley and I mourn her loss. We lift up the Rounds family in our prayers, and I hope and pray that through this time they will feel God's grace and comfort in new and profound ways. But just a tremendous loss, and I know for my colleague MIKE ROUNDS, who has been a great partner of mine—we have been involved in politics together now, in South Dakota, for over 30 years—that he, too, is going to need our support and our prayers in the days ahead.

This is a tough job under ordinary circumstances, but with the burden that he has been and will be carrying now into the future, it is going to be really important that we do everything we can to support him and stand with him, and today especially with him and his family.

ELECTIONS

Mr. President, there is a lot of interpretation about what happened in these off-year elections last night. Obviously, the results in two traditionally Democrat-leaning States are causing people to speculate about what it all means.

And I listened to some of the analysis, and there are lots of armchair quarterbacks who are doing the analysis about what these—what we all